

Harc Family

STAFF AND FAMILY E-NEWSLETTER

What's New In April?

A message from our President & CEO Russell Coleman



As we welcome spring and the warmer days, I want to express my great appreciation for our remarkable team at Harc. It's truly awe-inspiring to witness the meaningful contributions each one of you makes every day!

Your dedication and hard work do not go unnoticed. That's why I'm thrilled to see the positive impact Bonusly is already having in recognizing each other's efforts. With Bonusly, we have a powerful platform to celebrate success in real-time and express our appreciation for one another openly.

All staff should have received an invitation to join Bonusly, where you'll have the opportunity to give and receive small bonuses, called "Harc points," to your teammates.

Let's make recognition fun and engaging by embracing the hashtags that capture our values and strengths. Whether it's showcasing #teamwork, #leadership, #problem_solving, #creativity, #mission, #culture_of_respect, or #initiative, let's celebrate each other's achievements!

With Bonusly, not only do you have the chance to recognize your peers, but you can also redeem your earned points for exciting rewards like gift cards or make donations to charities. Together, let's create a culture of recognition and appreciation as we continue to grow and succeed at Harc.

Thank you for all that you do!



On April 3rd, the Mandell Jewish Community Center's Special Needs Program held a fashion show that included our Harc individuals and our social enterprise SockStarz; which had a pop-up along with other vendors which included the PICKLE PIONEERS, wildflower, CHOKAICO BEAN-TO-BAR CHOCOLATE, and Gold Trader The Diamond Shop; which are all great businesses!

This special night included the following Fabulous Fashionista Harc models: Ann Margaret, Beena, Bethanne, Ann, David, Jaime, Jay, Marianne, Mira, Saarin, and Kathleen "KK". With so many people's help they raised over \$11,000 to keep the programming at the JCC going strong!

The JCC offers a wide variety of events, activities and classes, tailored to meet the needs of individuals living with disabilities in our community. Special guest, Kara Sundlun was the emcee for the night and did an amazing job of making the individuals feel their best in apparel from many different companies included: J.T Ghamo, bk & co., Coco Lily, Ann Miller, and Larissa Kuhnly Cardons Salon!



SUPPORT FOR AUTISM
Raising awareness and
acceptance for autism
spectrum.



April is national Autism Awareness Month and Harc is always trying to empower people with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). With the information and resources they need to live their lives to the fullest potential. We are also working to help others become more accepting of people with ASDs.

With the CDC declaring that 1 in 68 children may be impacted by autism spectrum disorders, it's a fair bet that each one of us knows someone with autism or someone who has a family member or friend with autism. That's why it's important to dispel all of the myths and misinformation to understand and accept what having an ASD really means. Harc will continue to ensure that our individuals who are on the Autism spectrum, are well cared for, being taught life skills, and making sure that they can live and thrive like anyone else in the community who does not have an intellectual or developmental disorder

Harc's Beyond the Stage Cast and Crew

READY, SET, ACTION! Harc's talented individuals are now one the second step to advance in the original production of Harc's Beyond the Stage! We are now holding rehearsals for our variety show production, with the generous help of TheaterWorks in Hartford. The official theme is a "Michael Jackson's Smooth Criminal Show." In a nutshell, there will be an evil developer played by one of our actors that is trying to tear down Harc and replace it with a nuclear power plant. So it is the duty of our "Smooth Criminals" to take down the evil doer. Get ready and mark your calendars soon to witness an amazing production from the individuals that you know and love.

Harc's Beyond the Stage

Cast & Crew List

Cassandra Acosta	Dance Group
Jordan Andreini	Emcee
Elizabeth Benjamin	Costumes
Marianne Burkey	Sing Individual/Actor
Maria Delgado	Singing Group
Paula DeMaio	Costumes
Monica Fautuex	Singing Group
Karlos Fernandez	Singing Individual/Costumes, Actor
Jackie Fiore	Sing Group/Dance Group
Francis Gonzales	Dance Individual
Chris Grant	Dance Individual/Actor
Franny Jacobucci	Sing Group
Maria Lopes	Sing Group
Patrick Maddox	Backstage
Joey Malenado	Dance Group
Mary Mathis	Sing Individual/Dance Individual/Actor
Jason Mazzamurro	Dance Group
Gifty Osei	Dance Group
Jennifer Post	Sing Group
Mira Rauch	Sing Group
Daisy Rodriguez	Sing Group
Spencer Rothstein	Poetry Reading
Chris Rowe	Sing Individual
Alberto Vasquez	Sing Individual/Dance Individual
Wayne Williams	Sing Group/Dance Group
Tammy Willingham	Dance Group
Jason Womack	Backstage
Chynna Wright	Sing Group



Day Programs Need Your Help!

YOUR DONATIONS MATTER

The Day Programs are accepting donations of: games, puzzles, art supplies, paper towel rolls toilet paper rolls for crafts projects, magazines (*please remove your name and address prior to donating*).

If you would like to know whether an item is appropriate for donation please call the Day Services Director at 860-402-6677.



SockStarz Pop-Up At the Mandell JCC Fashion Show



Guess what!? SockStarz was on of the vendor pop-up shops at the Mandell JCC Fashion Show Fundraiser. SockStarz employees, Jamie and Jonathan did an amazing job of not only selling a slew of socks, but there was also Harc's Artisan Studio merchandise available. From aromatic hand-made candles, to artful holiday and greeting cards. We nearly sold out of them all! You can purchase these items at

our online store at sockstarzusa.com Not only does the SockStarz enterprise provide an opportunity for our individuals to earn a proper wage, it also assists them with obtaining job skills that they can use in their future employment in the community.

Shop Now

Harc's Artisan Studio is Ready For Mother's Day



Harc's
Artisan
Studio



Changing lives, changing minds

SOCKSTARZUSA.COM



Harc's Artisans are hard at work crafting specialized Mother's Day gifts for your special loved one. They have Mother's Day cards, customized glass mugs, a balloon set with a glass mug, and other amazing jewelry and artwork to make the perfect Mother's Day package. Stop by at Harc on 900 Asylum Ave Hartford, CT 06105 or shop online at Sockstarzusa.com to purchase a one of a kind gift that was hand made by one of our individuals with disabilities at Harc.

Shop Now

Did You Forget Something? 🔍

Mystery sock subscription service!

***\$13.99 per month with free shipping**

Don't forget to get your Mystery Sock Subscription box! For only \$13.99 you will get an awesome sock from our collection; this price includes free shipping. Hand picked by our Harc SockStarz employees, and specially packaged for you and your loved ones!

Get Your Monthly Box Today

Get ready For Harc's Walk N' Roll!

Ready, Set, FUNDRAISE!!! Our annual Walk N' Roll event is on May 11th from 10am - 12pm at the Hartford Yard Goats Dunkin' Park. There will be games, music, activities, snacks and more. It is free to attend with free parking, and is open to the public. Be a volunteer for the event, or be the captain of your own fundraising team! We can't wait to see you there!

HARC AT THE PARK

WALK N' ROLL

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!
WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Harc's annual Walk N' Roll kicks off on May 11, 2024 from 10am-12pm at the Hartford Yard Goats Dunkin' Park. We would love to have volunteers help with games, set-up, guide people to parking, clean-up, hand out refreshments, and most importantly... to HAVE A FUN TIME!

Please contact us today to learn more about this exciting volunteer opportunity!

Scan Me To Sign Up



Contact:
Moriah Corry
mccorry@harc-ct.org
860.218.6084



[Click to Volunteer](#)



HARC AT THE PARK

WALK N' ROLL

SCAN ME TO RESERVE TICKETS



MAY 11, 2024
WALK KICKS OFF AT 10 AM

Hartford Yard Goats
Dunkin' Park
1214 MAIN ST HARTFORD, CT



TO REGISTER TO ATTEND, BECOME A FUNDRAISER, OR JOIN A TEAM!

All proceeds go to Harc's services and programs

[Click to Register](#)

More Comfy and Cozy New Additions!



Woodland Group Home Couches



Asylum Group Home Couches

Harc's two group homes; Woodland and Asylum, have brand new furniture! Our individuals are so excited to max and relax on their new additions to their home. Families are thrilled that their loved ones are living in a space that is not only safe but comfortable.

A Legendary Experience With Kibu Dance Sessions



Kibu for individuals offers engaging fitness, recreational, job, and life skills classes which inspire confidence and create change. There are over 350 videos on this platform that help educate our individuals. From tutorials on how to go shopping, use an ATM, to Chair Yoga, American Sign Language courses, and even sparring classes with Heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson!

A cool feature about Kibu is that we can request a video if they do not have the content we are looking for to share with our individuals. We are integrating this platform with Residential and our Supported Employment program.

Kibu effortlessly guided the participants through a series of fun, high-intensity dance combinations that got the heart pumping and calories burning. Online Kibu instructors have decades of experience working with individuals with I/DD, so we know our folks are in the right hands. Here is a video of our guys and staff showing off their cool moves as they learned how to do the cha cha slide. We even had a dance session that had music from Michael Jackson!

Meet Our New Director of Residential, Elise!

When did you start with Harc?

February of this year

What were you doing before coming to Harc?

I have been in this field for the past 25 years. I started as a direct care staff and have worked in many capacities at a few agencies over the years. Most recently, before coming to Harc I was an administrator for Oak Hill, overseeing their residential department with 3 other administrators.

What attracted you to our mission?

I think that providing supports "for a lifetime" is one of the things that attracted me to the mission, along with inclusion and dignity. I think it's important to meet people where they are at in their lives; and working for an agency that is committed to providing services at many stages of life is really important because it highlights the importance of continuity and lasting relationships for the people we support. Being able to provide a continuum of care throughout a person's life is extremely important.

What is the most challenging situation you have encountered thus far?

Probably staffing, which isn't specific to this agency or even industry. The staffing crisis is real, however I think Harc does a fantastic job of using the resources we have and people here have that collaborative spirit and work well together to get things done. We are working hard at hiring people and moving in the right direction.

What are you most looking forward to?

I am looking forward to getting to meet and know all of the individuals we provide support to, and all the staff. I am also looking forward to implementing some new initiatives that will enable the us to be more efficient as an agency. Sometimes I get teased by my family because I get so excited about efficient systems and processes, and I have to explain to them that to me, putting in new systems that are efficient, save time and money, actually do make a difference in the lives of the individuals supported because it frees up the staff's time so they can spend more time being engaged and less time with documentation and procedural items. And being efficient saves money, that is better spent on enhancing the lives of the people supported.

What is your favorite part of your day?

My favorite part of the day is when I first get to work and take the elevator upstairs. It always stops in the lobby and I get to see and chat with the individuals and staff.

What motivates you throughout the day?

Being a positive role model for my son and contributing to pervasive positive change for the people we support. When I worked as a direct care staff, I made a positive impact on the individuals, one at a time, every single day. And I have to remind myself, that it may not be the same kind of day to day impact, but that the work I do is in an effort to make positive changes at an agency level, to impact everyone.



Of what contribution or achievement are you most proud?

One of the things I am most proud of is my son, and having brought him up in this field. One of the first places my son's other mom and I brought him to when he was first born (aside from the doctors office) was a group home. We both work in this field. My son is 9 years old and has been essentially raised in and around group homes his entire life. When he was 5 years old, his kindergarten teacher called us to give some very positive feedback. There was a student in his class with autism, who used a wheelchair and would sometimes have loud outbursts. And our son, every time this happened would walk up to the child, ask if he needed help or if he was sad and try to help. The teacher was calling to say how happy she was but also that she was a little shocked at how calm he was and how well he interacted with this little boy. That was probably my proudest moment, not only as a mom, but as an advocate for the people we support.

What are some fun facts about you?

I am an only child, and I have a 9 year old son who is also an only child. We are both adopted and everyone says he looks like me even though we are not biologically related :)

I play the flute and the piano, I love to read and cook, I want to take swing dancing lessons

Upcoming Events



SAVE THE DATE

- Wednesday, April 24th, 2024 Nonprofit Rally Day
- July 15th - 21st, 2024 Harc's Beyond the Stage
- Saturday, May 11th, 2024 Walk N' Roll
- Saturday, November 9th, 2024 Auction and Gala

Donate

